CON. You have good judgment in horsemanship*
DAU. Be warned by me then: they that ride

Spanish breeches are those that are *stret and close to the thigh.* and are buttoned up the sides from the knee with about ten or twelve buttons: anciently called *trowses.*" STEEVENS.

"Trowses, (says the explanatory Index to Cox's History of Ireland,) are breeches and stockings made to sit as close to the body as can be." Several of the morris-dancers represented upon the print of my window have such hose or strait trowsers; but the poet seems, by the waggish context, to have a further meaning.

TOLLET*.

The following passage in 'Heywood's Challenge for Beauty.' 1636, proves that the ancient Irish *trousers* were somewhat more than *mere buff:*

"*Manhunt.* No, for my money give me your substantial English hose, round, and somewhat full afore.

"*Maid.* Now they are, methinks, a little too great.

"*Manh.* The more the discretion of the landlord that builds them.—he makes room enough for his tenant to stand upright in them:—he may walk in and out at ease without stooping: but of all the rest I am clean out of love with your Irish *trowses:* they are for all the world like a jealous wife, always close at a man's tayle."

"The speaker is here circumstantially describing the fashions of different countries. So again, in Bulwer's Pedigree of the English Gallant, 1653: "Bombasted and paned hose were, since I remember, in fashion; but now our hose a**e made so close to our breeches, that, like Irish *trowses,* they too manifestly discover the dimension of every part." In Sir John Oldcastle, the word is spelt *strouces.* COLLINS.

The old copy reads—strossers. The correction was made by Mr. Theobald: who observes, that "by strait trossers the poet means *ieworibus denudatis,* for the Kerns of Ireland wore no breeches, any more than the Scotch Highlanders.** The explication is, I think, right; but that the Kerns of Ireland *universally* rode without breeches, may be doubted. It is clear, from Mr. Toilet's note, and from many passages in books of our author's age, that the *Irish strait trossers* or *trowsers* were not merely *figurative:* though in consequence of their being made extremely tight, Shakspeare has here employed the words in an equivocal

sense

When Sir John Perrot, Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1585 insisted on the Irish nobility wearing the English dress and appearing in parliament in robes, one of them being very loth to change his old habit, requested that the deputy would order his chaplain